Standard Operating Procedure

492. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are already existing at various levels within the defence forces. These operating procedures cover operational as well as administrative aspects and are validated/updated from time to time. In the interest of national security further details cannot be divulged on the Floor of the House in this regard.

Exodus of officers from NTRO

493. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) set up following the Kargil war, is facing an exodus of officers due to suffocating working conditions because of which many officers are returning to their parent organization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this organization is mandated to gather technical information on almost all issues, from external aggression to internal subversion, but was never equipped to do so; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Permanent commission to women officers

494. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1000 women in Army and around 570 and 160 in Air Force and Navy respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons that women officers do not get permanent commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since early 1990s women officers are being inducted into the Armed forces and depriving them permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The present strength of women officers in Army, Navy, Air Force and Armed Forces Medical Service is as under:-

Army	Navy	Air Force	Armed Forces Medical Service*
1072	175	661	3745

*Includes Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services.

2. The women officers are appointed both in Short Service and Permanent Commissions in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services. In these Services, Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are also eligible for Permanent Commission.

3. The induction of women officers in the three Services started in 1992. Appointment of women officers has been progressively extended to different Arms/Services in these Services. They